GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:5
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
SHORTFALL IN WHEAT PROCUREMENT
Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan;Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the stocks of foodgrains including wheat recorded in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether there has been a decline in stocks due to shortfall in procurement of wheat during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, State-wise;

(d) whether the quantity so procured is sufficient to meet the requirement of wheat in the country during the current year;

(e) if not, whether the Government is contemplating to import wheat;

(f) if so, the details thereof indicating the countries from where it is likely to be imported; and

(g) the steps being taken to ensure adequate availability of wheat in the country to check the rise in price?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 5 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 25.7.2005 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool including wheat, as on 1st July in the last three years, and the current year are given below:

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Coarsegrains	Total
2002	410.74	219.37	0.36	630.47
2003	241.94	109.74	0.03	351.71
2004	191.52	107.63	6.41	305.56
2005	144.54	100.71	5.88	251.13

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): There has been a decline in stocks of wheat by 46.98 lakh tonnes between 1.7.2004 and 1.7.2005 due to
(i) increase in the offtake of wheat under the TPDS and welfare schemes, and
(ii) due to shortfall in the procurement of wheat in the current year by 20.1 lakh tonnes, as compared to the previous year. The State-wise details are as under:

PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT

(quantity in `000 tonnes)

STATE/U.T.	2004-05	2005-06
Bihar	15	1
Delhi	2	2
Haryana	5115	4529
Madhya Pradesh	349	484
Punjab	9240	9010
Rajasthan	279	159

Uttar Pradesh	1741	560
Uttaranchal	54	40
Total	16795	14785

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e) & (f): Do not arise.

(g): The following four measures are, inter-alia, being taken to ensure adequate availability of wheat in the country and to check the rise in prices:

(i) Monitoring wholesale and retail prices in all major centres of the country on a weekly basis.

(ii) Adequate issue of wheat under the TPDS and other welfare schemes.

(iii) Release of wheat under the open market sales scheme.

(iv) Ensuring adequate stocking of wheat in all the regions of the country.